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50X1-HUM

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1. The Podbrezova Iron Works is located in the valley of the River Hron in Central Slovakia (48° 49' N, 31° 11' E). In this district the Hron valley is very narrow and consequently the whole area of the Iron Works is comparatively well concealed from the air. Being an undertaking important to the defense of the State, it is under military supervision and is guarded by the civilian factory militia. Entry is very difficult for those not employed in the Iron Works, since an application for entry must in the first instance be made to the commandant of the factory militia, indicating the purpose of the visit. Private visits are not permitted. If absolutely necessary it is possible to arrange a meeting in the guard room, but not for more than five minutes and under the supervision of the guard. Care is taken that individuals do not hand each other anything at such a time.
2. The following belong to the Iron Works Combine:
 - a. The furnaces and rolling works in Podbrezova
 - b. The smelting works in Hronec
 - c. The foundry in Hronec
 - d. The factory in Pesek
 - e. The blast furnaces of Tisovec and Dobsina.
 - f. The roasting installation in the Sirk and Dobsina district. The iron ore and roasted ore from Sirk are transported to the blast furnaces in Tisovec by the Sirk-Tisovec suspension railway.
3. The equipment of the Iron Works in Podbrezova is old and consequently not economical in normal times of peace. The factory was built before the first world war under the Habsburg monarchy. From then until now very little has been spent on reconstruction work. It may be said that money has been spent only on up-keep.

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4. The iron ore from the Slovakian mines contains up to 60 percent iron, and is of a dark brown to brown-black color. The iron ore very often contains silicates and phosphates in addition to oxides. The matter containing phosphorus has an unfavorable effect on the quality of the ore. The Podbrezova Iron Works produce rolled iron (semi-finished rolled iron products) containing a small percentage of carbon (maximum carbon content 2%). As against that, the silicate matter contained in the iron improves the quality of the semi-finished products. The rolled iron is tough, unyielding, elastic, hard to melt, and suitable for forging.

5. The iron from the mines at Sirk and Dobsina is mostly roasted on the spot in the local roasting installations. In this way it is possible to eliminate unwanted matter and bring about a reduction of 30 to 35 percent in the weight of the ore. Thus a more economic use of the process of production is achieved. In the process of roasting the iron ore is further oxydized and thus unwanted matter, particularly sulphur, is separated. By this process, production in the blast furnaces is facilitated and/or refinement in the [] furnaces assisted. The process of production by the blast furnaces is largely as follows:

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a. Pig iron for the refinement process of the [] furnaces

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Raw material for forgings and steel products from the [] furnaces is comprised of (1) pig iron from the blast furnaces and (2) scrap from the [] furnace forgings. If a particularly hard grade of steel is to be produced, matter containing carbon, in the form of charcoal or coke dust is added to the above mentioned raw material. Special steels are produced by adding nickel, chrome, or wolfram at the end of the process.

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b. Wrought iron containing gravel for the production of fashioned and dimensioned semi-finished products, iron and steel sheets

The wrought iron has crystalline grain. Its malleability increases as the temperature is raised. In the case of wrought iron a special effort is made to eliminate foreign bodies, particularly sulphurous matter which has the most adverse effect on wrought iron. The tensile strength of the rolled forgings from the iron works at Podbrezova (used for building) is 34 kgs. per 1 mm with 12 percent elongation.

c. Course-grained castings

Used in foundries for the production of castings, mountings for machines, canalization equipment, iron moulding furnaces, etc.

6. The rolling mills at Podbrezova produce the following semi-finished products:

a. Flat iron from 10 x 2 x 3000 mm to 200 x 5 x 3000 mm

b. Square iron from 3 x 3 x 3000 mm to 50 x 50 x 3000 mm
from 3 x 3 x 6000 mm to 50 x 50 x 6000 mm

c. Round iron from 3 x 3000 mm to 50 x 3000 mm
from 3 x 6000 mm to 50 x 6000 mm

d. Horse shoes (flat) in the following dimensions:

20 x 10, 21 x 10, 22 x 10, 23 x 10, 24 x 10
20 x 11, 21 x 11, 22 x 11, 23 x 11, 24 x 11
20 x 12, 21 x 12, 22 x 12, 23 x 12, 24 x 12

e. Shaped irons in the following shapes:

from 15/10 x 2 x 3000 to 150/120 x 15 x 3000 mm
from 15/10 x 2 x 6000 to 150/120 x 15 x 6000 mm

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- f. Shaped irons in the following shapes:
 from 15/15 x 2 x 3000 mm to 150/150 x 15 x 3000 mm
 from 15/15 x 2 x 6000 mm to 150/150 x 15 x 6000 mm
 - g. Shaped irons in special dimensions according to special requirements
 - h. Hoop iron (in strips) measuring:
 from 10 x 1.5 mm to 120 x 3 mm
 - i. Iron and steel plates (crude)
 from 3 mm to 7 mm
 - j. Iron and steel plates (crude)
 from 7 mm to 60 mm
 - k. Supporting iron (I-shaped) for building purposes
 from 80 mm to 500 mm
 - l. U-shaped iron for building purposes
 from 60 mm to 300 mm
 - m. Rails for the State railways and private railways, of all types.
 - n. Rails for narrow gauge railways, industrial railways and building purposes, of all types.
 - o. Ferro-concrete (crude)
 from 6 mm to 30 mm
 - p. Tubes for construction purposes, of all types normally in use.
 - q. Gas pipes, black and galvanized, of all types normally used.
7. The yearly production capacity amounts to 142,000 tons of rolled iron and steel semi-finished products. The 5-year plan reckons on an increase of about 75 percent of this production. Experts state that this increase is out of the question until such time as the iron works are modernized and sufficient technical workers are available.

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